

Why Are Oswald Data A National Security Risk?

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By GEORGE MORRIS

CPYRGHT AFTER THE FIRST

DAYS testimony of Mrs. Marina Oswald Monday before the Warren commission, Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the seven-man group investigating the assassinations of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, said some of her disclosures "may not be released in your lifetime." Justice Warren said a public statement may be issued on her testimony after it is completed. He anticipated she might testify for three days.

Warren explained, according to an Associated Press story that ran under headlines across the country, that parts of Mrs. Oswald's testimony, in the category of "national security," may be suppressed for decades and, he added, "I say that seriously."

The chief justice told reporters, according to the AP dispatch that a statement will be issued after Mrs. Oswald completes her testimony but, indicated that the statement may not be very revealing. He added, "I don't know how newsworthy" the release of the commission would be.

On the following day, when newsmen pressed Justice Warren for clarification, Warren said, according to the Times, that disclosure of testimony will depend on consultation with U.S. departments affected, because Oswald "was in Russia and down in Mexico and we don't know yet what that will involve."

"Yes there will come a time," Warren went on. "But it might not be in your lifetime. I am not referring to anything especially, but there may be some things that would involve security. This would be preserved but not made public."

INCOMMUNICADO

The disclosure of "something new" is significant because Mrs. Oswald, held incommunicado by

the FBI, and quizzed for many days, presumably had already given all the information she had, and the FBI had included all it had in its report. The FBI, leaking its reports to newsmen, had claimed Oswald alone was the killer, and had no connection with Jack Ruby, who killed him, or with others.

Earlier on Monday, J. Lee Rankin, counsel for the commission, told newsmen that in her two and a half hours of testimony, through a translator, the commission learned "some new things" from Mrs. Oswald. He said:

"She was helpful. The commission heard some information it had not heard before, some new things."

When asked if "new evidence" was brought up, Rankin, according to press accounts, nodded his head affirmatively. But when Warren was approached, the chief justice refused to comment, and all morning papers reported him as saying, "I would not comment on a witness's testimony in the middle of it."

But late that evening, over the air, and in Tuesday's early afternoon papers, came the AP story and Warren's very pointed comment on Mrs. Oswald's testimony and its sensational implications. When he made those remarks, and to whom, was not made clear in the AP story.

Rankin had indicated that Mrs. Oswald was "cooperative" and testified on Oswald's movements since he returned to the United States in 1961.

"NATIONAL SECURITY"

What could Mrs. Oswald have possibly told the committee that related to "national security" or which might have to be suppressed "for decades?"

It could not conceivably be the mechanics of arranging the assassination charged to him, IF HE WERE ALONE in the deed. Surely there would be no need of clamping a lid on the facts unless they led to channels embarrassing to the United States.

Did Mrs. Oswald throw light on the much rumored and strongly supported evidence that Oswald was an undercover man for a U.S. agency—the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency or in some other capacity, as an informer?

It is hardly conceivable that Mrs. Oswald had any information on Oswald's movements after the morning of the day of the assassination because she had not been with him alone after that.

The disclosure that Oswald was an informer or tool of a U.S. agency would, undoubtedly, have worldshaking significance and very much affect the image of the U.S. and especially the attitude towards its numerous agencies operating in all corners of the earth.

The contradiction in the public statements first issued by Rankin and Warren and Warren's apparent afterthought and later remarks as reported by AP, may reflect the heterogeneous composition of the seven-man investigating body named by the President.

On the commission are Allan W. Dulles, who was the CIA director when Oswald suddenly appeared in the Soviet Union and unsuccessfully sought Soviet citizenship; Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich) the most ardent champion of the FBI in the

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